

REVIEW STAFF

75-3029

BRIEFING OF HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE STAFF

Date: 15 September 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Portuguese Military Coup of April 25, 1974

STAT

AGENCY BRIEFER(S):
(Component Assigned)

DDI/OCI/WE

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE STAFF PRESENT: Mr. Rushford

OTHERS PRESENT: None

DATE & PLACE OF BRIEFING: August 27, 1975 in D/OCI small conf room

Briefer had agreed beforehand that DD/OCI would be present. COMMENTS: When the DD/OCI told Mr Rushford that he would remain for the briefing, Rushford was adamant that DD/OCI not be present. Rushford then telephoned his superior to get authorization to see briefer alone. The decision was to leave it up to the briefer as to whether he wished to have DD/OCI present. In view of Rushford's strong feelings, briefer chose to give briefing alone.

Mr. Rushford then opened the briefing by apologizing for being such an S.O.B. about not having a supervisor present, stating he was hired to be tough and learned a great deal more when supervisors were not present. In answer to what led up to the coup in Portugal, briefer gave standard briefing, stressing factors which made it difficult to predict that a coup could have been successful in Portugal at that time. Instead of "tough" grilling briefer had expected, session was similar to those held with various newsmedia correspondents. Rushford stated presentation made situation understandable--much more so than the DIA presentation, although he asked that this observation not be repeated to DIA. Briefer agreed to provide list of OCI coverage of the coup and an earlier aborted coup, and he later left this list for the DD/OCI to give to Rushford if deemed appropriate.